

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Book of Oracles: Babylon (c. 720 BC)

Isaiah 13:1–14:27

Destruction on the “Day of the LORD”

13:1 The oracle of Babylon that Isaiah son of Amoz saw:

- 2 Raise a signal on a bare hill,
lift up *your* voice to them;
wave *the* hand and may they enter *the* gateways of *the* noblemen.
- 3 I myself I have commanded my consecrated ones,
I have also summoned my mighty warriors concerning my anger,
the ones who exalt over my majesty.
- 4 A sound, a noise *is* on the mountains,
the likeness of many people!
A sound of *the* roar of *the* kingdoms,
of nations gathering!
Yahweh of hosts *is* mustering an army for battle.
- 5 *They are* coming from a distant land,
from the end of the heavens,
Yahweh and the weapons of his indignation,
to destroy the whole earth.
- 6 Wail, for the day of Yahweh *is* near;
it will come like destruction from Shaddai!
- 7 Therefore all hands will grow slack,
and every human heart will melt,
8 and they will be dismayed.
Pangs and labor pains will seize *them*;
they will tremble like a woman giving birth.
They will stare at one another,
their faces flushing.
- 9 Look! The day of Yahweh *is* coming,
cruel and wrath and *the* burning of anger,
to make the earth a desolation,
and he will destroy its sinners from it.
- 10 For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not flash forth their light;
the sun will keep back when it comes out,
and *the* moon will not cause its light to shine. [[Matt 24:29](#); [Mark 13:24](#)]
- 11 And I will punish *the* world for its evil
and *the* wicked for their iniquity.
And I will put an end to *the* pride of *the* arrogant,
and I will bring *the* haughtiness of tyrants low.
- 12 I will make humanity more rare than gold
and humankind more than the gold of Ophir.
- 13 Therefore I will make *the* heavens tremble,
and the earth will quake from its place
because of the wrath of Yahweh of hosts,
and in the day his anger burns.

14 And this shall happen:

like a hunted gazelle or sheep with none to gather them,
they will each turn to his *own* people,
and they will each flee to his *own* land.

- 15 Everyone who is found will be pierced through,
and everyone who is carried away will fall by the sword.
- 16 And their children will be dashed into pieces before their eyes;
their houses will be plundered, and their wives will be raped.

God Will Destroy Proud Babylon

17 Look! I *am* stirring the Medes up against them,
who do not value silver
and do not delight in gold.

18 And *their* bows will shatter young men.
And they will not show mercy on *the* fruit of *the* womb;
their eyes will not look compassionately on children.

19 And Babylon, *the* glory of kingdoms, the splendor of the Chaldeans' pride, will be like when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

20 It will not be inhabited forever,
and it will not be dwelled in forever;
and no Arab will pitch a tent there,
and shepherds will not allow *their* flocks to lie down there.

21 But wild animals will lie down there,
and their houses will be full of howling creatures,
and the daughters of ostriches will live there,
and goats will dance there.

22 And hyenas will answer in its palaces,
and jackals in the pleasure palaces;
and its time is coming soon,
and its days will not be prolonged. [[Rev 18:2](#)]

God Will Restore Israel

14:1 But Yahweh will have compassion on Jacob,
and he will again choose Israel
and set them on their land,
and the immigrant will join himself to them,
and they will attach themselves to the house of Jacob.

2 And *the* nations will take them
and bring them to their place,
and the house of Israel will take possession of them in the land of Yahweh
as slaves and female slaves.

And this will happen:

they will take their captors captive
and rule over their oppressors.

A Taunt Song for the King of Babylon

3 And it shall happen on the day Yahweh gives you rest from your pain and turmoil and hard labor which you had to perform,

4 that you will take this taunt against the king of Babylon,
and you will say:

"How *the* oppressor has ceased!
his insolence has ceased.

5 Yahweh has broken *the* staff of *the* wicked,
the scepter of rulers,

6 that struck *the* peoples in wrath, a blow without ceasing,
that ruled *the* nations in anger
with unrestrained persecution.

7 All of the earth rests *and* is quiet;
they break forth *into* singing.

8 Even *the* cypresses rejoice over you,
the cedars of Lebanon:

'Since you were laid down,
no *wood* cutter comes up against us.'

- 9 Sheol below is getting excited over you,
to meet you when you come;
it arouses *the* dead spirits for you,
all of *the* leaders of *the* earth.
It raises all of *the* kings of *the* nations from their thrones.
- 10 All of them will respond and say to you,
'You yourself also were made weak like us!
You have become the same as us!'
- 11 Your pride is brought down to Sheol,
and the sound of your harps;
maggots are spread out beneath you like a bed,
and your covering is worms.
- 12 How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of dawn!
You are cut down to the ground, conqueror of nations!

13 And you yourself said in your heart,

- 'I will ascend to heaven;
I will raise up my throne above the stars of God;
and I will sit on *the* mountain of assembly
on the summit of Zaphon;
- 14 I will ascend to *the* high places of *the* clouds,
I will make myself like the Most High.'
- 15 But you are brought down to Sheol,
to *the* depths of *the* pit.
- 16 Those who see you will stare at you,
they will look closely at you:
'Is this the man who made the earth tremble,
who caused kingdoms to shake,
17 who made *the* world like the desert
and destroyed its cities,
who would not let his prisoners go home?'
- 18 All *the* kings of *the* nations, all of them, lie in glory,
each one in his house.
- 19 But *as for* you, you are thrown away from your grave,
like an abhorrent shoot,
clothed with *the* slain,
those pierced *by the* sword,
those who go down to *the* stones of *the* pit,
like a corpse that is trodden down.
- 20 You will not be united with them in burial
because you have destroyed your land,
you have killed your people.

The descendants of evildoers will not be mentioned for eternity!

- 21 Prepare a place of slaughter for his sons
because of the sin of their ancestors.
Let them not rise and take possession of *the* earth
or fill up *the* face of *the* world *with* cities."
- 22 "And I will rise up against them,"

declares Yahweh of hosts,

"and I will cut off name and a remnant from Babylon,
and offspring and posterity,"

declares Yahweh.

- 23 “And I will make her a possession of *the* hedgehog,
and pools of water,
and I will sweep her away with *the* broom of destruction,”

declares Yahweh of hosts.

God’s Plan to Crush Assyria

24 Yahweh of hosts has sworn, saying,

“Surely just as I have intended, so it shall be.
And just as I have planned, it shall stand:

- 25 to break Assyria in my land,
and I will trample him down on my mountains;
and he shall remove his yoke from them,
and he shall remove his burden from his shoulders.”
- 26 This *is* the plan that is planned concerning all of the earth;
and this *is* the hand that is stretched out over all of the nations.
- 27 For Yahweh of hosts has planned, and who will frustrate *it*?
And his hand *is* stretched out, and who will turn it back?

Micah’s Prophecy to Judah—Wicked Leaders Judged and a Future Righteous Ruler (c. 720–715 BC)

Micah 3–5

Indictment of Judah’s Leaders

3:1 And I said,

“Listen, O heads of Jacob
and leaders of the house of Israel!
Is it not for you to know justice?

- 2 *Those of you who are* haters of good
and lovers of evil,
who tear their skin from them
and their flesh from their bones,
3 and who eat the flesh of my people,
and strip their skin from them,
and break their bones,
and chop *them* like meat in the pot,
and like flesh in the midst of a cooking pot.”
- 4 Then they will cry to Yahweh,
but he will not answer them.
He will hide his face from them at that time,
when they have made their deeds evil.
- 5 Thus says Yahweh concerning the prophets
who are leading my people astray,
who are biting with their teeth
and proclaim, “Peace,”
but whoever puts nothing into their mouths
they declare war against.
- 6 Therefore *it will be as* night to you, without vision,
and darkness to you, without divination.
And the sun will set on the prophets,
and the day will grow dark over them.
- 7 Then the seers will be disgraced,
and those practicing divination will be put to shame.
All of them will cover their lips,
for there is no reply from God.
- 8 But I, I am filled *with* power,
with the Spirit of Yahweh,

and with justice and might,
to declare to Jacob his rebellion,
and to Israel his sin.

- 9 Hear this, O rulers of the house of Jacob
and leaders of the house of Israel,
those detesting justice
and perverting all that *is* right,
10 he who builds Zion with blood
and Jerusalem with wickedness.
11 Its rulers judge for a bribe;
its priests teach for a price;
its prophets practice divination for money.
But they lean on Yahweh, saying,
“Is not Yahweh in our midst?
Disaster will not come upon us.”
12 Therefore on account of you
Zion will be plowed *as* a field,
and Jerusalem will be a heap of rubble,
and the temple mount as a high place *in* a forest. [[Jer 26:18](#)]

Millennium—Zion’s Future Exaltation

- 4:1 And it will be *that* at the end of those days,
the mountain of the house of Yahweh
will be established as the highest of the mountains,
and it will be lifted up above the hills,
and people will stream to it.
2 And many nations will come and say,
“Come! Let us go up to the mountain of Yahweh,
and to the temple of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways,
and that we may walk in his paths,”
for the law will go out from Zion,
and the word of Yahweh from Jerusalem.
3 And he will judge between many peoples
and will arbitrate for strong nations far away;
and they will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation will not lift up a sword against a nation,
and they will no longer learn war.
4 But they will sit, each under his vine
and under his fig tree,
and no one will make them afraid,
for the mouth of Yahweh of hosts has spoken.
5 For all the nations walk,
each in the name of its god,
but we will walk in the name of Yahweh our God,
forever and ever. [compare Micah 4:1–5 with [Isaiah 2:1–5](#)]

Millennium—Restoration of a Remnant and Zion

- 6 “In that day,” declares Yahweh,
“I will assemble the one who limps,
and I will gather the one who has been scattered,
and *those* whom I have mistreated.
7 And I will make the one who limps a remnant,
and the one driven far away a strong nation,
and Yahweh will reign over them on Mount Zion
from now to forever.
8 And you, O Migdal-Eder,

hill of the daughter of Zion,
to you it will come,
and the former dominion will come,
the reign of the daughter of Jerusalem.

From Distress to Deliverance

- 9 So then, why do you shout a loud shout?
Is there no king in you?
Has your counselor perished
that pangs like a woman in labor have seized you?
- 10 Writhe and groan, O daughter of Zion,
like a woman in labor.
For now you will go forth from the city,
and you will camp in the field;
you will go to Babylon.
There you will be rescued;
there Yahweh will redeem you
from the hand of your enemies.

From Siege to Victory

- 11 And now, many nations are gathered against you
who are saying, 'Let her be defiled,
and let our eyes gaze upon Zion.'
- 12 But they do not know the thoughts of Yahweh,
and they do not understand his plan,
that he has gathered them as sheaves
to his threshing floor.
- 13 Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion,
for your horn I will make *as* iron
and your hooves *as* bronze.
And you will break many peoples in pieces,
and their gain you will devote to destruction to Yahweh,
and their wealth to the Lord of the whole earth."

From Helpless Ruler to Ideal King

- 5:1 Now muster troops, O daughter of troops;
a siege he puts against us.
They strike the ruler of Israel
with a rod on the cheek.
- 2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
too small to be among the clans of Judah,
from you one will go out for me,
to be ruler in Israel;
and his origins *are* from of old, from ancient days. [\[Matt 2:6\]](#)
- 3 Therefore he will give them up
until the time of she who is with child has given birth.
And the rest of his brothers will return
to the children of Israel.
- 4 And he will stand and shepherd *his flock*
in the strength of Yahweh,
in the majesty of the name of Yahweh his God.
And they will live,
for now he will be great unto the ends of the earth.

The Ideal King Will Deliver His People

- 5 And this one will be peace.
As for the Assyrian, when he comes into our land
and when he treads on our fortresses,

then we will raise up against him seven shepherds
and eight leaders of men.

- 6 And they will shepherd the land of Assyria with the sword,
and the land of Nimrod at its entrances.
And he will rescue *us* from the Assyrian
when he comes into our land,
and when they tread upon our border.

The Remnant Among the Nations

- 7 And the remnant of Jacob will be
in the midst of many nations,
like dew from Yahweh,
like showers upon the grass
which does not wait for a man,
nor delays for the children of humankind.
- 8 And the remnant of Jacob will be among the nations,
in the midst of many peoples,
like a lion among the wild animals of the forest,
like a young lion among the herds of sheep
which, when it passes through and treads *down*
and tears in pieces, there is none who *can* deliver.
- 9 Your hand will be lifted high over your enemies,
and all your foes will be cut off.

Obliteration of Military Power and Pagan Worship

- 10 “And it will happen *that* in that day,” declares Yahweh,
“then I will cut off your horses from among you,
and I will destroy your chariots.
- 11 And I will cut off the cities of your land,
and I will demolish all your fortifications.
- 12 And I will cut off sorceries from your hand,
and you will not have soothsayers.
- 13 And I will cut off your idols
and your stone pillars from among you,
and you will no longer bow down
to the work of your hands.
- 14 And I will uproot your Asherahs from among you,
and I will destroy your cities.
- 15 And in anger and in wrath I will execute vengeance
on the nations who did not obey.”

Micah's Prophecy to Judah—Punishment and Future Restoration (c. 720–715 BC)

Micah 6–7

A Divine Covenant Lawsuit

6:1 Hear now what Yahweh says:

“Arise! Plead *your case* with the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.”

- 2 Hear, O mountains, the indictment of Yahweh,
and you eternal foundations of the earth,
for Yahweh has an indictment against his people,
and against Israel he contends.
- 3 “O my people, what have I done to you,
and how have I wearied you? Answer me!
- 4 For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and from the house of slavery I redeemed you.
And I sent Moses, Aaron, and Miriam before you.

- 5 O my people, remember what Balak the king of Moab devised,
and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him,
and *what happened from* Shittim to Gilgal,
so that you might know the righteous acts of Yahweh.”
- 6 With what shall I approach Yahweh,
and bow down to God on high?
Shall I approach him with burnt offerings,
with bull calves a year old?
- 7 Will Yahweh be pleased with thousands of rams,
with myriads of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body *for the* sin of my soul?
- 8 He has told you, O mortal, what *is* good,
and what does Yahweh ask from you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God? [cf. [Deut 10:12–13](#); [Matt 23:23](#)]

Further Charges and the Sentence

- 9 The voice of Yahweh calls to the city
(*it is* sound judgment to fear your name):
“Hear, O staff! Now who has appointed it?”
- 10 Is there any longer a man *in* the house of the wicked
treasures of wickedness,
and the ephah of scarcity *which is* accursed?
- 11 Shall I regard as pure *the one* with scales of wickedness,
and with a bag of deceitful weights?
- 12 Because her rich are full of violence,
and her inhabitants speak lies,
and their tongue *is* deceitful in their mouth.
- 13 And I also have made you sick by striking you down,
making *you* desolate because of your sins.
- 14 You yourself will eat but not be satisfied;
your hunger *will be* in your midst,
and you will put away, but you will not save,
and what you save I will hand over to the sword.
- 15 You yourself will sow, but you will not reap;
you will tread olives, but you will not anoint yourself with oil;
you will tread grapes, but you will not drink wine.
- 16 For you have observed the regulations of Omri
and all the works of the house of Ahab.
And you have walked in their counsels,
so that I am making you a desolation
and your inhabitants an object of scorn.
So you will bear the scorn of my people.

A Lament Over a Decadent Society

- 7:1 Woe is me! For I have become
like the gatherings of summer,
like the gleanings of the grape harvest,
when there is no cluster of grapes to eat
or early ripened fruit *that* my soul desires.
- 2 The faithful *person* has perished from the land,
and there is none who is upright among humankind.
All of them lie in wait for blood;
each hunts his brother *with* a net.
- 3 Their hands *are* upon evil, to do *it* well;
the official and the judge ask for the bribe,
and the great *man* utters the evil desire of his soul;

and they weave *it* together.

- 4 The best of them *is* like a brier;
the most upright *worse* than a thorn hedge.
The day of your watchman, your punishment, has come;
now their confusion will come.
- 5 Do not put faith in a friend;
put no trust in a close friend.
Guard the doorways of your mouth
from the one who lies in your lap.
- 6 For a son treats a father with contempt;
a daughter rises up against her mother,
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;
the enemies of a man *are* the men of his own house.
- 7 But *as for* me, I will look to Yahweh;
I will wait for the God of my salvation.
My God will hear me.

A Psalm of Trust

- 8 You should not rejoice over me, O my enemy!
When I fall I will stand up;
when I sit in darkness
Yahweh *will be* a light for me.
- 9 I will bear the rage of Yahweh,
for I have sinned against him,
until he pleads my cause and executes my justice.
He will bring me out to the light;
I will see his righteousness.
- 10 Then my enemy will see,
and shame will cover her who said to me,
“Where *is* Yahweh your God?”
My eyes will look upon her;
now she will become a trampling place,
like mud in the streets.

A Promise of Restoration

- 11 A day for building your walls;
on that day he will extend *your* boundary.
- 12 *On* that day he will come to you
from Assyria and the cities of Egypt,
and from Egypt to the River,
and from sea to sea
and mountain to mountain.
- 13 But the earth will be a desolation
because of its inhabitants,
for the fruit of their deeds.

A Prayer, the Lord’s Answer and the Response

- 14 Shepherd your people with your staff,
the flock of your inheritance,
those dwelling alone *in* a forest
in the midst of Carmel.
Let them feed in Bashan and Gilead,
as *in* the days of old.
- 15 As *in* the days when you came out
from the land of Egypt
I will show him wondrous things.
- 16 The nations will see and be ashamed
because of all their might.

They will lay *the* hand on *the* mouth;
their ears will be deaf.

- 17 They will lick the dust like the serpent,
like the crawling things of the earth.
They will come trembling from their strongholds
to Yahweh our God.
Let them fear and be afraid of you.

A Hymn of Praise to God

- 18 Who *is* a God like you, forgiving sin
and passing over rebellion for the remnant of his inheritance?
He does not retain his anger forever,
for he delights in loyal love.
- 19 He will again have compassion on us;
he will trample our iniquities.
And you will hurl all their sins
in the depths of the sea.
- 20 You will show faithfulness to Jacob,
and loyal love to Abraham,
as you have sworn to our ancestors
from the days of old.

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